

The Sun.

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THE SUN, New York City.

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Gresham and the Japanese Refugees.

MR. JULIAN RALPH, the Shanghai correspondent of *Harper's Weekly*, has furnished us with fresh grounds for amazement at Secretary GRESHAM'S impudence in assuming that the Japanese would accept him as a mediator between them and the Chinese. It appears that the two Japanese students at Shanghai, who had sought the protection of the United States Consul, were accused by the Chinese authorities of being spies. Our Consul desired to shield the refugees, and telegraphed for leave to do so, but he was forced by peremptory orders from the Secretary of State to surrender them to their accusers, by whom they were subjected to atrocious tortures and put to death.

How does GRESHAM seek to palliate this shocking crime against humanity? First, by a shuffling effort to cast doubt upon the facts, and next, by a quibbling reference to the technical rules governing the right of offering asylum where civilized nations are concerned. When the rumor of the atrocious tortures inflicted on the surrendered refugees reached Washington some time ago, the State Department maintained that it could not possibly be true. Why, pray? Because the Chinese Minister had assured the Secretary that examination by torture is unlawful in China. He might also have informed him that for Chinese officials to take bribes is contrary to law; and we presume that, in the one case as in the other, GRESHAM, in his grotesque ignorance of Chinese history, would have accepted the existence of a law as conclusive evidence that it is observed in practice.

In the face of Mr. RALPH'S account of the devilish malignity with which the refugees were treated, the Secretary shifts his ground, and, no longer denying the fact, tries, by pleading the prescriptions of international law, to excuse himself for abandoning the luckless Japanese to their torturers. Now, it is unquestionably true that, if China were recognized as a civilized country, our diplomatic officers would be bound to deliver to the legally constituted authorities refugees accused of crime, upon receiving assurances that they would be tried before a tribunal having jurisdiction of the alleged offence. For example, during the Franco-German war of 1870-71, Mr. WASHBURN, our Minister at Paris, was instructed to extend all kind offices consistent with international law to the Germans shut up in the French capital. If a German, however, who had sought an asylum at the American Legation, had been demanded by the French authorities on the charge that he was a spy, Mr. WASHBURN must, in conformity to international law, have surrendered him. But mark the reason of the rule. It is based on the assumption that the dictates of humanity would not be set at naught by the delivery of alleged offenders to a civilized country, the courts of which were known to treat accused or convicted persons in a just, equitable, and humane way. In the case, however, where the power demanding such surrender is one like China, which all civilized powers have officially stigmatized as non-civilized, it is plain that the rule of international law, superseding the natural promptings of humanity, does not apply. *Cessante ratione, cessat ius.*

The United States, in common with every other civilized power, have officially declined to recognize China as civilized, by refusing to permit American citizens accused of committing offences in China to be tried before Chinese tribunals, and by insisting that the United States courts shall have exclusive jurisdiction in such cases.

Had the Japanese youths, who vainly sought protection from our Consul, been the subjects of any European power temporarily unrepresented at Shanghai, Secretary GRESHAM would not have dared to turn them over to be subjected to the devilish tortures which every man with even a schoolboy's knowledge about China knew would be inflicted on them. The only shadow of pretext for exposing Japanese to the infernal torture from which Europeans would have been shielded is the quibbling technicality that Japan would have expected the surrender of Chinese under analogous circumstances. But Japan is civilized, in fact, and the fact is on the point of obtaining universal acknowledgment from all civilized powers. Throughout the present war, the conduct of the Japanese toward their prisoners, toward civilians, toward the barteries committed by one opponent against another, and toward the helpless, is a study in the annals of barbarism. Taking cognizance of this and other proofs, England has already recognized by treaty the right of Japan to figure among civilized powers; a treaty to a like effect is about to be submitted to our Senate; all the great States of Continental Europe are ready to take the same course. There was, therefore, no moral justification, and only the merest shred of a technical excuse, for GRESHAM'S surrender of the Japanese petitioners for American protection against the horrors of a Chinese torture chamber.

We can assure the Government and people of Japan that in this shameful business it is Mr. JULIAN RALPH, and not Secretary GRESHAM, who represents the heart and conscience of the United States.

Youth and Education in Politics.

The *Literary Monthly*, conducted by students of Columbia College, expresses satisfaction because college-bred men are becoming more active in public life than they used to be; and it thus proceeds to justify its generalization:

"Our graduate department this month shows quite plainly that there is at least one political duty which Columbia men do not refuse to perform, they are willing to run for office. The number of graduates of the Law School who figured in the recent election is surprising. It is an indication that Columbia law men are generally of the New York type, but greater significance lies in the simple fact that so many candidates at one election were graduates of a professional school rather than men who had risen into public office through other means."

elect will be the better qualified for their places because of the general and professional training they received there.

From the time of the Revolution until now educated men, and especially lawyers, have always been numerous in the Government of this State and the Union. Relatively they have been at least as many during recent years as at any other period in the past; and at present, it is safe to say, they are more numerous, proportionately, than ever. The advancement of this country in sound and critical education has been more rapid during the last quarter of a century than at any previous time. The number of men possessing such an education is now greater, comparatively, than ever before, both in general and as concerns the holders of public office, and particularly in legislative places. They are so many that only eminent ability can lift a man above the high average of scholastic acquirement.

The talk in some quarters, invariably Mugwump, about there having been a decline in cultivated intellectual ability and elevation of character in such places is baseless. In reality there has been a decided improvement all along the line, and it is especially conspicuous and indubitable at the present time. Never before were young men of education and deservedly high social reputation so generally and so actively interested in politics as they are now. During an excited political canvass the colleges are now stirred with enthusiastic interest in it to a degree never equalled in the past.

The old fogies need not despair of the republic. The young fellows will take care that no harm comes to it. Besides, they are not crowding out the gray heads. Did they not elect MORTON and STONG, neither of whom is of the rising generation? They are still giving the old fellows some show.

Mayor Havemeyer—Mayor Strong.

WILLIAM F. HAVEMEYER, the late Mayor of New York elected by the Republicans until the election of WILLIAM L. STONG, was a member of the first Committee of Seventy. He was one of the original charter members, so to speak, and organizers of that committee in 1871, and a year later his political career followed. He was elected Mayor, the Committee of Seventy furnishing the candidate and the Republicans the votes.

WILLIAM L. STONG was one of the charter members and organizers of the Committee of Seventy in September, 1874, as Mr. HAVEMEYER had been in September, 1871; and he, too, was afterward nominated for Mayor and elected to that office by the Republicans. Mr. HAVEMEYER was born in New York City in 1804, and when elected Mayor was in his 68th year. Mr. STONG was born in Ohio in 1826, and when elected had seen seven weeks of his 68th year. Mr. HAVEMEYER was, and Mr. STONG is, a plain and matter-of-fact man, candid, unemotional, unresponsive, prosaic, and stubborn to the verge of obstinacy. One was, and the other is, a man of honorable character and respectable associations. Mr. HAVEMEYER did not dissipate his substance in gratification of the needy or importunate. Mr. STONG has kept no latch string hanging on the outside of the door of the Central National Bank.

These points of similarity in the two Mayors of New York, elected by the Republicans in thirty years, are worth considering, for the identity and attributes of a Republican, representing a minority party, are of far more importance than those of a Democratic Mayor, representing the majority party, and sustained, therefore, by a solid and homogeneous constituency, and not by a shifting and swaying combination of surprised Republicans, disgruntled Democrats, abandoned Mugwumps, dissatisfied radicals, and miscellaneous malcontents.

Mr. HAVEMEYER was elected by the Republicans, but his general course in office has been upon the idea that he wasn't. His chief appointments were made from his personal friends or from the circle of his personal friends. The demand of the Seventy for places was so persistent as to become scandalous; and the Republican organization was generally ignored. Beset with difficulties, harassed by the importunities of office seekers, distressed by legal proceedings relating to the tenure or removal of certain Commissioners, and by the visible failure of his administration to fulfill the promises made of it, Mr. HAVEMEYER did not live out his term. Chosen in 1872 as a vigorous and consistent opponent of Tammany Hall, he saw with chagrin the overwhelming triumph of Tammany Hall at the polls in 1873. In 1874 he died, and there has not been a Republican Mayor of New York since.

Mr. STONG becomes Mayor in January. Will he yield to the demands of his associates in the Committee of Seventy as that other Mayor, HAVEMEYER, elected by the Republicans, did? Or will he stand up manfully to the obligations of partisanship and his own political convictions, and give the 100,000, or more, Republicans the material fruits of their actual, though perhaps accidental, triumph? Will he fight the forces of opposition as an isolated individual, or as the representative of 100,000 Republican fellow citizens, backing and sustaining him?

These are interesting questions, but they cannot be answered until after January. Our own opinion is, that the experimental exploits of political amateurs have not been successful enough to warrant imitation in the City Hall at present, and that the visible lessons of experience are never wholly without profit to a man of sand and sense.

For the Rectification of the Boundaries of the Man from Nowhere.

We are able to announce on authority as strong as are the titles of the Hon. GAS ADRIKS of Nowhere to public respect, that he has prepared a memorial which will be presented to Congress as soon as that body re-assembles. The substance of his petition is that, whereas he has an earnest desire to become a Senator in Congress and has already made large investments in Delaware for that purpose, the extent and diversity of his business interests and adventures have necessarily led him into many States and made his residence so shifting and various; wherefore he prays the honorable body that it will pass a bill "for the Delimitation and Localization of GAS ADRIKS, commonly styled the Man from Nowhere, and for the Establishment of his Boundaries and Legal Settlement, and for other Purposes."

He represents that in his occupation as a Peripatetic Gasman or Pipe Line he is a means of communication between the several States, and therefore a proper subject of investigation and regulation under the later State Commerce act. Moreover, he respectfully requests that he has been and is subjected to much ridicule and contempt on account of his inability to demonstrate to what State he belongs, and where his actual legal residence is; and that such terms as "the Man

from Nowhere," "Everywhere ADRIKS," "The Lost Gas," "Where's the Leak," &c., &c., have been applied to him to the petitioner's annoyance and scandal. Wherefore he prays that a bill for his relief and settlement may be passed; and that Congress will appoint three Commissioners to advise with Commissioners appointed by the Governors of Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and Pennsylvania, and by the American Geographical Society, to take testimony as to the State, District, Territory, or Reservation to which said GAS ADRIKS belongs, and to report the same on or before the fifteenth day of January next. The petitioner offers to pay all the expenses of the Commission, and in case it gives a decision establishing his right to a legal residence in Delaware, he will give a steam yacht to each of the Commissioners and erect a heroic bronze group, "Modesty, Probity, and Patriotism," at some point to be decided upon in the District of Columbia.

While it is impossible for us to have any sympathy with the present political ambitions of the Man from Nowhere, his pitiable position as a political hound, a gazebon on No Man's Land, must move every feeling heart. This utopianism of his is purely political, he is understood. As a candidate and would-be member of the Senate, GAS ADRIKS wishes to cease to hail from Nowhere and to settle in Delaware. For Senatorial purposes only he has a farm in Delaware as near Pennsylvania as he can get. He has residences, houses, manors, and demesnes in various parts, but his home and holding is in Delaware. A Senatorial purpose only he has in Delaware. A Senatorial purpose only he has in Delaware.

As a thing of course, we uphold the right of any man who comes to the United States from whatever country he may come to obtain his allegiance to the Government under which he was born; yet he must remember that he can do this only so long as he refrains from procuring naturalization papers, or from applying for them. There are living among us foreigners from every country of Europe who do not desire to become American citizens; yet they possess, under our laws, the privilege of protection for their person, their property, and their business.

But no man can be at once a subject of any foreign Government and a citizen of the United States. Any American citizen who, while holding his papers of citizenship, or who, after "declaring his intentions," swears allegiance to any foreign ruler, is false to the United States.

Let due inquiry be made.

Speed for Man.

We advise everybody to go and see the bicycle races of this week, especially if they have never mounted bicycles or have never seen them race. There will be a thrilling revelation to such people when they witness for the first time what might be called a flight of tried and trained wheelmen whirling around the track at a rate of speed of which the ambition of old day athletes slept in peaceful ignorance. If a prophetic genius of thirty years ago had ventured the opinion that this generation would enjoy the use of a machine which man's own physical strength could drive thirty miles an hour or faster, even his incredulous hearer would have been likely to whisper "steam." Yet we have today such a machine, not only established in the favor of thousands of young men given naturally to activity, but rapidly capturing the respect and the fancy of people of all sexes, sizes, and pursuits, to whom the hitherto known forms of exercise have been difficult or impossible. The bicycle has created a sentiment for itself and for the outdoor customs it leads to, which amount to a genuine cult. The generic name of "wheelman" describes a wheelman indeed, in spirit and in habit both.

A tremendous amount of enthusiasm and an immense spread of some common and intense interest must necessarily be behind the collection from all parts of the country of hundreds of amateurs now in New York, brought to this tournament by the thirst for fame, not fortune. Even on the circular track used the speed is bewildering to an inexperienced eye, and the competition of the riders is as fierce and exciting as though the course was level. It is worth while to have a look at this competition, if merely to get a faint idea of the extraordinary and, we are inclined to believe, permanent use of the bicycle.

This morning's chapter of the anti-commerce tax argument of the late WILLIAM O. BARTLETT calls attention to some erroneous notions as to the origin of the constitutional provision that direct taxes shall be proportioned to population. It has sometimes been argued that the provision grew out of the institution of slavery, and that slavery having ceased, the law should cease also. Mr. BARTLETT shows that even under the old confederation the apportionment of taxation to numbers superseded the apportionment to slaves. The value of land, and that the amendment to the articles of confederation was rescinded in the Federal Convention because it was deemed the most equitable rule for apportioning taxes.

Mr. BARTLETT then points out the terrible injustice of the income tax to the State of New York. While our comparative representation in Congress has been reduced by the increase given to the Southern States, the burden of the income tax falls like a punishment for patriotism upon New York, and the rebel States pay nothing. And that this odious tax concerns the whole people alike is indicated in these eloquent words:

"This matter concerns the poor as well as the rich. If the rights of property can be invaded with impunity, and in defiance of constitutional law, the freedom of the citizen will not long remain secure. Rights of property and rights of person are inseparable; they exist or perish together. A slave who does not own himself, cannot own any property. And just in proportion as a Government renders insecure the fruits of a man's labor, whereby he maintains his life and his independence, it reduces him toward the condition of a slave. Whenever the Constitution fails to prove an impenetrable shield to all those rights of property over which it extends, it will cease forever to yield protection to liberty."

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a traitor to the United States. If he cannot be convicted of treason under the constitutional provision that "treason against the United States shall consist only in levying war against them or in adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort," he can certainly be deprived of his American citizenship, according to law. He has broken the solemn oath which he took when he was permitted to become a citizen. He has been guilty of perjury in its most dangerous form. He has been false to the true allegiance which he has sworn. He has shown himself capable of committing the overt act of treason if the opportunity were offered. He can never be a trustworthy American citizen. If naturalized, he ought to be arrested and brought before a Federal court; and if he has not got his first papers of naturalization, or has made a Federal court for them, he should, at the least, be debarred from ever obtaining his full papers. The infamous crime of which such a man is guilty should meet its full penalty; and no guilty man should be permitted to escape.

The matter is too serious for trifling. In it is involved the safety of the United States Government and the honor of American citizenship. We must believe that the perjurers have been few; but, in any event, we trust that every one of them will be discovered and punished. Our naturalized citizens of the Russian immigration have won praise, many a time, for the warmth of their patriotism, and for devotion to the Constitution under which they obtain protection.

As a thing of course, we uphold the right of any man who comes to the United States from whatever country he may come to obtain his allegiance to the Government under which he was born; yet he must remember that he can do this only so long as he refrains from procuring naturalization papers, or from applying for them. There are living among us foreigners from every country of Europe who do not desire to become American citizens; yet they possess, under our laws, the privilege of protection for their person, their property, and their business.

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Mobile. In New York harbor, ready for service at short notice, are the big armored cruiser New York, more than a match for the Blake, with the San Francisco, the Cincinnati, and the gunboat Castine. At Norfolk are the Atlanta and the Raleigh. It would be possible to get ready in a short time the Minnesota, our fastest cruiser, while the torpedo cruiser Venzon and torpedo boats Cushing and Stiletto are available.

Such an arrangement, too, would leave a home reserve in the battle ships Maine and Texas and the monitor Miantonomah, none of them now in commission, besides the smaller craft Dolphin and Bancroft. But, with a superior force already in Caribbean waters, it would only be needful to send other vessels there in case of a British move that called for them. The Mohawk, the British ship nearest Bluefields, is a gunboat of our Yorktown class, and of not one-fourth the Columbia's displacement. It would be a short matter to get half a dozen of our vessels ready to go south. In any case there is likely to be Gulf current for the North Atlantic squadron this winter.

If THOMAS C. PLATT likes a wary fight, the people of New York will be gratified. He is a traitor to the United States. If he cannot be convicted of treason under the constitutional provision that "treason against the United States shall consist only in levying war against them or in adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort," he can certainly be deprived of his American citizenship, according to law. He has broken the solemn oath which he took when he was permitted to become a citizen. He has been guilty of perjury in its most dangerous form. He has been false to the true allegiance which he has sworn. He has shown himself capable of committing the overt act of treason if the opportunity were offered. He can never be a trustworthy American citizen. If naturalized, he ought to be arrested and brought before a Federal court; and if he has not got his first papers of naturalization, or has made a Federal court for them, he should, at the least, be debarred from ever obtaining his full papers. The infamous crime of which such a man is guilty should meet its full penalty; and no guilty man should be permitted to escape.

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BELMAR'S SINNERS STARTLED.

Deacon Adams' Novel Scheme to Increase Interest in the Methodist Revival.

BELMAR, N. J., Nov. 29.—Deacon Daniel Adams, who lives in a neat cottage in Ninth avenue, and who in his secular moments is engaged in building other neat cottages along the coast, became convinced that the revivalists of the Belmar Methodist Church were altogether too meagre. When the meeting had been going on for nearly a fortnight only half a dozen sinners had become converted. The deacon and the pastor, the Rev. S. N. Nichols, had labored without success, and yet the sinners were not a few. Deacon Adams decided to try a new plan. He called a meeting of the sinners and of the members of the church, and refused to come forward for prayers.

Deacon Adams and his pastor were discouraged. The few faithful furnished all revival impulses. Deacon Adams went home one night in deep thought. The meeting had been large. So many people never attended a revival since the day the Belmar Methodist Church was organized. Deacon Adams, sitting on a vacant lot near the sea, thought, literally, on a vacant lot near the sea. But the fervent preaching failed to move the masses. The deacon sat up later than is usual with Belmar believers. A light was seen in his sitting room until past midnight. He went to his study, took out some papers, and like Abou Ben Adhem's angel, wrote far into the night. When he ceased he had a list of all the sinners he could think of between midnight and the morning.

Long before the sun rose out of the sea Deacon Adams was alone in the sitting room of the church, with a list of seven sinners, male and female, under his pillow. The next day Deacon Adams called a meeting of the sinners and of the members of the church, and refused to come forward for prayers. That night he was at his accustomed place in the "amen corner" of the church. Deacon Adams, sitting on a vacant lot near the sea, thought, literally, on a vacant lot near the sea. But the fervent preaching failed to move the masses. The deacon sat up later than is usual with Belmar believers. A light was seen in his sitting room until past midnight. He went to his study, took out some papers, and like Abou Ben Adhem's angel, wrote far into the night. When he ceased he had a list of all the sinners he could think of between midnight and the morning.

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